

REMARKS

It is respectfully submitted that newly cited U.S. Patent No. 6,588,664 to Davies, just like U.S. Patent No. 6,233,565 to Lewis (of record), does not support the Examiner's rejections of the claims.

As recited in each independent claim 17, 22, 24, applicants' invention is concerned with gaining access to an application server only for a certain time period. In other words, a user wishes to have a communications session of a certain time duration over a communications network. By way of example, a user at a hotel or an airport may wish to do some work online for a limited time, and the present invention provides a means for conducting such a communications session. Specifically, the user has to affirmatively request the duration of the time period, and this represents how long the application server will be available to the user.

By contrast, Davies and Lewis do not affirmatively request how long an application server will be made available to the user. These references do indeed access a server, but solely to pay, and obtain tickets, for a sporting event, concert or movie. Davis and Lewis can access the server for as long as it takes their users to place an order. Their users cannot request in advance how long the application server will be made available to them.

On the issue of "time", the Examiner directed the applicants' attention to col. 5, line 36 of Davies, i.e., "Date/time of event". This, of course, is when the event will occur, not how long an application server will be made available to a user. The Examiner also directed the applicants' attention to col. 7, lines 30-34, but, here again, there is no teaching that a user is requesting how long an application server will be made available to him.

In summary, neither Davies, nor Lewis (as argued in applicants' last response), teaches having a user request a certain time period to have access to an application server, and then being granted such access only for said requested time period after presentation of a ticket. Allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's proposal for amending claim 24 was adopted.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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